



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK
MARCH 13-17, 2006
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS DAY OF HOPE
MARCH 14, 2006

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis, an unpredictable, chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system, is the most common neurological disease affecting young to middle-aged adults in which the progression, severity and specific symptoms cannot be foreseen; and

WHEREAS, more than 400,000 Americans have multiple sclerosis and more than 2,600 belong to the Dakota Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society; and

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis impacts not only the individual diagnosed with the disease, but also his or her family, friends, co-workers and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence rate for North Dakota is one of the highest in the country, with 180 people diagnosed with the disease for every 100,000 in population; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1946, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been working to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis, funding research, providing services, offering professional education programs and furthering advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has invested \$460 million in finding a cure for multiple sclerosis, an investment that has resulted in significant advances in treating the disease, including new medications that may reduce or delay future disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim March 13-17, 2006, **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK** and March 14, 2006, **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS DAY OF HOPE** in the state of North Dakota.

/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

Attest:

/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State